

WASHINGTON (March 10) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) said the new spike in gasoline prices shows the danger of America's continued reliance on imported oil.

"When we are dependent on oil from countries that are unstable or hostile to our interests, we are not in control of our energy security. The result is more hardship for struggling families and an additional burden on our economy. But there is a solution, and it is a balanced national energy policy that uses our own abundant resources including nuclear and coal along with alternative fuels and conservation. For too long, we've had federal policies that have made gasoline and energy more expensive and that is just not affordable anymore," Bachus said.

House Republicans today announced the American Energy Initiative, a legislative program to expand energy production and create jobs. Bachus has joined as an original cosponsor of "A Roadmap for America's Future" which is comprehensive energy legislation that would permit the development of domestic resources, promote the use of nuclear and coal power, and encourage investment in alternative energy.

Congressman Bachus also stated his opposition to the higher taxes on gasoline and energy that would result from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) administrative attempt to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

"The last thing that families and businesses can take right now is a new tax on their energy use. Knowing that the House will not pass the 'cap and tax scheme,' the EPA is trying to do an end-run around Congress and the people through regulatory fiat. It is outrageous that an out-of-control agency wants to unilaterally raise gasoline and energy prices at a time when consumers can least afford it," Bachus said.

Bachus has written to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson expressing his concerns with the agency's plan and has cosponsored legislation expressing disapproval of the regulation and its pending implementation.